

# On the Horizon

## *Taxable Wage Base Expected to Decrease*

Michigan employers may be eligible for a lower Taxable Wage Base (TWB) for the third quarter 2015.

In 2011, measures were taken by Michigan's legislature that aimed to avoid deficits in the state Unemployment Trust Fund. Through amendments to the Michigan Employment Security (MES) Act, Michigan lawmakers established a "triggering mechanism" for the TWB. The Legislature first increased the taxable wage base from \$9,000 to \$9,500. Then the Legislature adopted the trigger mechanism that would reduce the TWB to \$9,000 when the balance in the Trust Fund reaches \$2.5 billion and is expected to remain for two quarters.

The UIA projects that the TWB for non-delinquent contributing employers will be lowered from the current rate of \$9,500 to \$9,000 for the third quarter 2015. A delinquent employer is one who owes the Agency \$25 or more in contributions, penalties or interest.

Contributing employers pay state unemployment insurance contributions, based on the wages they pay to their employees, up to a state taxable wage base. These contributions fund unemployment benefits for employees who lose their jobs through no fault of their own.

While the Agency projects that the decrease will likely occur, it is awaiting additional State and Federal data before the final call can be made.

The Agency expects to receive this additional information in late July 2015 and will then be able to make a formal announcement. Employers can expect a letter from the UIA (via their MiWAM account) and updates on the UIA website.

For more information, please contact the UIA's Office of Employer Ombudsman at 1-855-4-UIAOEO.



## Stay Connected

### *Follow the UIA on Social Media Sites*

Follow the Talent Investment Agency on social media for news about how the State of Michigan is addressing the gap between workers with the right skills and employers in need of skilled workers for the jobs of today and tomorrow. TIA joins the efforts of the Unemployment Insurance Agency and the Workforce Development Agency to coordinate programs related to job preparedness, career-based education, worker training, employment assistance and unemployment insurance.



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# 2015 Employer Seminars

If you haven't attended one of this year's UIA Employer Seminars – there's still time. The free seminars, designed to acquaint employers with the unemployment insurance system in Michigan will continue through September 17th. The sessions, held in locations around the state, began in May.

The sessions cover the areas of Michigan's unemployment insurance system that most employers most often have questions about such as: "How an Employer's Tax Rate is Calculated," "How Benefits are Charged to Employers," the Michigan Web Account Manager (MiWAM) system and more. This year, employers will also have a chance to learn about Michigan's new Work Share program, which helps companies avoid layoffs and keep their skilled employees working. (see story, pg.2)



Remaining dates and locations include:

<b>August 11</b>	<b>Flint</b>	Mott Community College 1401 East Court Street
<b>August 18</b>	<b>Grand Rapids</b>	Wisner-Bostrall Applied Technology Center at Grand Rapids Community College, 151 Fountain Street NE
<b>August 19</b>	<b>Holland</b>	Ottawa County Filmore Complex, Main Conference Room 12220 Filmore St., West Olive, MI
<b>August 26</b>	<b>Kalamazoo</b>	WMU Haworth College of Business 3110 Schneider Hall, Auditorium
<b>September 9</b>	<b>Marquette</b>	Michigan Works! Marquette Service Center 1498 O'Dovero Drive
<b>September 17</b>	<b>Brighton</b>	Greater Brighton Area Chamber of Commerce 218 East Grand River

To register for a seminar in your area, please click on the seminar you would like to attend and complete the on-line registration. If you're unable to get to one of the seminars, presentations are also available online at [michigan.gov/uia](http://michigan.gov/uia). Click on Tools and Resources.